

## NEW YORK HERALD.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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VOLUME XXV. NO. 3.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NIGHT'S GARDEN, Broadway.—The Gleaners.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway, opposite Bond Street.—Circus of the World.

BOWERY THEATRE, Broadway.—Spaulding &amp; Rogers' Zouave Troops.—MORRIS &amp; SON'S.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—Fanny &amp; Tony.

LAUREL THEATRE, No. 224 Broadway.—Savoy Opera.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Broadway.—Circus of the World.

TAMMANY HALL, Broadway.—The Gleaners.

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, Broadway.—The Gleaners.

ROBERTS' MINSTERIA, Broadway.—The Gleaners.

HOGLEY &amp; CAMPBELL'S MINSTERIA, Broadway.—The Gleaners.

GANTERLY MUSIC HALL, Broadway.—The Gleaners.

MELRODIN, No. 229 Broadway.—The Gleaners.

New York, Friday, January 4, 1861.

The News.

The reports from the South are again of a startling character.

It is announced from Georgia that the Governor of that State has seized and garrisoned with militia the forts in the harbor of Savannah.

And there is reason to believe that a plan has been matured by the secessionists for taking possession of all the fortifications on the Southern coast.

The intelligence from Charleston is to the effect that Fort Sumter is besieged, that Major Anderson's communications have been cut off, that Fort Moultrie has been repaired, that new batteries have been erected, and that everything is in readiness to open fire on the federal forces.

The Florida Convention met yesterday. Without doubt this body will pass a secession ordinance as soon as the formalities can be gone through with.

The federal Judge of Florida has resigned his commission.

In the Senate yesterday Mr. Crittenden offered his plan for the adjustment of the pending troubles, and it was laid over for future consideration.

A large number of memorials from various parts of the country in support of Mr. Crittenden's proposition were presented.

Mr. Baker, of Oregon, resumed and concluded his speech on the crisis, and was followed by Mr. Douglas, who made one of his best efforts in behalf of peace.

In the House a bill was reported by the Judiciary Committee providing for the collection of the revenue from on shipboard, or at any point deemed advisable, when said collections cannot be made at the usual places.

The subject will be taken up on Tuesday next. Both houses adjourned till Saturday.

The Legislature held but a brief session yesterday.

In the Assembly notice was given of a bill to repeal the Personal Liberty Law of 1840.

Notice was also given of a bill to reorganize the New York Fire Department on the paid system.

Both houses adjourned till Monday.

The perilous condition of the republic is the absorbing topic at the State capital, and the preparations in relation thereto already before the Legislature are discussed in preference to lobby jobs.

The democratic members of the Legislature held a caucus yesterday, and unanimously agreed to support the resolutions introduced in the House by Mr. Robinson, in favor of dividing all the territory of the United States into two States and admitting them into the Union, thus taking forever the Territorial question as regards slavery out of Congress.

The steamship Australasian, from Liverpool on the 22d via Queenstown on the 23d ult., arrived off Sandy Hook Wednesday evening, where she was detained several hours awaiting the tide.

She reached her dock early yesterday morning enabling us to give a synopsis of her news in our yesterday's issue.

We this morning supply some interesting and important details.

The Australasian brings \$825,000 in specie.

The news from China is important.

The latest despatches received at the British Foreign Office, via St. Petersburg—a source always reliable—confirm the previous report of a treaty of peace between the Allies and the Chinese.

Both the Paris Monitor and Sir John Crampton (the latter having received a letter from Lord Elgin) confirm the intelligence of the termination of the war and the ratification of the treaty.

From the French source we learn that the Chinese government had agreed to pay the sum of two millions and a half sterling to France; that the system of coolie immigration was to be duly authorized, and that certain concessions had been made on behalf of Christian worship.

We regret that we have no good news to report respecting the missing English prisoners.

A despatch from General Ignatieff distinctly mentions the death of Mr. Bowly, but Lord Elgin in his despatch to Sir John Crampton is silent on the subject.

The French governmental organs begin seriously to occupy themselves with the project of the sale of Venice by Austria, and Grandduke supports it in the Constitutionnel.

The official journalist's article significantly concludes with what may be construed into a threat, inasmuch as he expresses the hope that Austria, who knows how provinces are gained, "will also remember how they are lost."

The Patrie asserts that the Pope, "guided by a conciliatory spirit, consents to a revision of the Austrian Concordat."

The news from Italy is unimportant.

Francis II. had issued an address, dated at Gaeta, December 8, in which he states his determination to fight to the last, and appeals to the immaculate and invincible Virgin and the patriotism of the Neapolitans to sustain him.

According to a despatch received at Paris from Constantinople, Russia, Prussia and Great Britain have proposed at Constantinople, and most probably also elsewhere, the reopening of conferences for improving the situation of the Christians in Turkey.

Our commercial reports show a general weakness in American securities.

Cotton and broad goods had advanced.

The English press continue their criticisms upon the President's Message, and condemn it in unmeasured terms.

The steamship Northern Light, from Aspinwall 25th ult., arrived at this port at noon yesterday.

She brings \$1,492,000 in specie, and the mails and passengers which left San Francisco on the 10th ult., together with news from Central and South America have been anticipated by the overland Expresses.

From New Granada we learn that the town of Santa Maria, which had been besieged for some

## The Revolution News of Yesterday—Progress of Secession.

The news from the South continues to be more and more alarming every hour.

We publish a telegraphic despatch from Washington, of whose truth there can be no doubt, that Mr. Toombs had received a message from Gov. Brown, of Georgia, stating that he had ordered Fort Pulaski and the United States Arsenal at Savannah to be taken possession of by the State militia, in order to prevent their occupation by the federal troops till after the meeting of the Georgia Secession Convention, which is to take place on the 16th instant.

The President has received a message to the same effect, and the news may, therefore, be regarded as reliable.

The reason assigned for this movement is a recent order of the President, which has been since revoked, that all the United States forts and arsenals in the South should be re-inforced.

It is possible, therefore, after all, that the news we published yesterday of the occupation of the federal forts in North Carolina by the troops of that State, in obedience to the order of Governor Ellis, may be quite true, and that the step may have been taken from the same motive as that which influenced Governor Brown, or perhaps from concert between the secessionists of the cotton States.

A report had reached this city yesterday, which we could not trace to any reliable source, that the people of Florida had also seized the United States forts in that State.

Whether it will turn out to be true or not we will determine. But any news of revolutionary occupation of federal forts in the South may henceforth be regarded as probable.

The Florida Secession Convention was held yesterday, but as there is no telegraphic communication with that State, there is of course no intelligence from there.

There can be little doubt, however, that it will follow the example of the South Carolina Convention.

On Monday next Alabama and Mississippi hold their conventions, and they, too, will vote themselves out of the Union.

On the same day the election for the Louisiana Convention takes place, and the Legislatures of Virginia and Tennessee meet, and next day will be held the election for a Convention in Texas.

The following is the calendar of the Southern movements for January, from which the reader will see how rapidly one act of revolution is likely to follow another at the South before the expiration of the present month.

Jan. 1—Missouri, Legislature meets.

Jan. 2—Georgia, election for Convention.

Jan. 3—Florida, Convention.

Jan. 7—Virginia, Legislature meets.

Jan. 7—Alabama, Convention.

Jan. 7—Mississippi, Convention.

Jan. 7—Louisiana, election for Convention.

Jan. 7—Tennessee, Legislature meets.

Jan. 8—Texas, election for Convention.

Jan. 14—Extra session of Alabama Legislature.

Jan. 16—Georgia, Convention.

Jan. 17—Kentucky, Legislature meets.

Jan. 21—Extra session of Texas Legislature.

Jan. 23—Louisiana, Convention.

Jan. 28—Texas, Convention.

This is a formidable programme, and in view of the revolutionary news from the strong State of Georgia, and the intelligence which we publish from Charleston of preparations to capture Fort Sumter, and the conspiracy in Virginia and Maryland to seize upon Washington, it must be admitted that the country is hurried on with fearful speed to the abyss of civil war.

Yet, in the face of this danger—amidst the smoke of the volcano and the murmurs of the approaching eruption—Congress is sitting on the very edge of the crater, apparently with as little concern as a person would exhibit at the explosion of a few firecrackers in the streets.

A last appeal is now made by Mr. Crittenden to the Senate to send his propositions directly to the people, to be voted upon without being adopted by Congress.

Nothing can be fairer than this. It does not commit any member, but leaves the whole question to the people. It leaves to their decision whether they will prefer this compromise to revolution and civil war (for such is the alternative); and surely before the people are dragged into the deadly feud, the least that is due to them is to consult their wishes through the ballot box.

In connection with this subject we refer with much pleasure to an address to the people signed by John Cochrane and other members of Congress, urging them to give immediate expression to their will on Mr. Crittenden's proposition to extend the Missouri compromise line to the Pacific.

The New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts Legislatures are now in session, they ought to call conventions immediately. If they did the New Jersey Legislature, which meets on Tuesday, would probably follow their example.

If Congress were only true to the country at this critical moment, they would send the question instantly to the people, and before the expiration of this month the decision of every State could be obtained, and the horrible calamity with which we are threatened might be averted.

But, judging from their action since the session commenced, and seeing that all that they have done leads directly to the disruption of the Union and civil war, we have no hope that these men, to whose hands the destinies of the country are committed, will, even at the eleventh hour, adopt the proposition of submitting the Crittenden compromise to the people.

We are persuaded if the country had only an opportunity of pronouncing on the question, it would be carried by an overwhelming majority.

As time and the danger are pressing on together *pari passu*, the people ought, therefore, to assemble in their might and take the matter out of the hands of those who misrepresent them at the Capitol at Washington, and decide for themselves what shall be done in this incipient revolution.

Even the enslaved white men of Europe are now permitted by their rulers to determine their own destiny through the ballot box to prevent the effusion of blood, and shall less be accorded to the free people of the United States?

PREPARING FOR THE RECEPTION OF GOVERNOR WISE.—According to our latest advices from Washington, the President will have ten companies of United States troops, and the District militia, say five thousand more, duly armed and drilled, for the reception of Governor Wise, should he try his proposed foray for the seizure of the federal capital in the interval to the 4th of March.

Governor Wise is a bad military chieftain, or he would not have disclosed his plans until he had crossed "the long bridge" of the Potomac. Or has the Governor only been blowing, as usual?

## Imbecility of Congress—Necessity of a Southern Constituent Convention.

The fate of the wise recommendations to Congress of Mr. Buchanan in his annual Message; the reception which has been given to the amendments of the constitution proposed by Messrs. Crittenden, Cochrane and others in the Senate and House of Representatives; the sheer weakness and imbecility that have been manifested by the committees of thirteen and thirty-three; together with the incapacity, stupidity and gross ignorance which characterize the proceedings of our national representatives at this critical period in the history of the country, render it as manifest as an axiom that no relief whatever is to be hoped for from that quarter.

The habitual Capitol routine of bribery, jobbing, lobby intrigue, and the manufacture of fresh conduits from the Treasury into the pockets of the venal hordes who batten upon federal corruption, having been broken in upon by the eventful crisis through which we are passing, the occupation of the majority of the representatives of the wisdom of the land seems gone.

At a moment when the discretion, judgment, patriotism and prestige are needed of statesmen such as the days of Washington and Jefferson produced, there is only to be found one desolate blank in political knowledge and sagacity at the source from whence sound and healthy legislation should proceed.

If our hopes revert to the incoming administration, the prospect is equally sickening.

Mr. Lincoln seems wholly occupied with the construction of a Cabinet, and with the childish care of distributing spoils he has not yet the command of. Among his adherents, not one of those who hope to possess administrative power after the 4th of March next has as yet shown signs of activity beyond the requirements of petty individual interests.

Under such circumstances the grave, momentous question of the hour becomes, what remedy can be devised for existing and impending evils? And mature deliberation renders it evident that, as there is no reliance to be placed on Congress, and equally little on the approaching government of Mr. Lincoln, it is indispensable that the people themselves should enter upon the stage and save the Union.

The President of the United States, in his Message, recommended that Congress should pass certain amendments to the constitution, to be submitted to the States.

It is in vain to expect that his suggestions will be attended to; and, even if tardy repentance should inspire a part of our national representatives with a desire to satisfy the just demands of the South, the requisite vote of two-thirds of each House of Congress, and then of three-quarters of the States, could not be secured.

Unless, therefore, the people of the separate States initiate some proper course of action, nothing can stay the rapid downward descent of the nation in its progress towards disintegration and anarchy.

Had there been an adequate appreciation by the people of the North of the dangers which imperil the future peace, unity and prosperity of the Union, it cannot be doubted that constituent conventions would, long since, have been called in the several States, and that the most efficient of all remedies would have been applied by a grand National Constituent Convention.

The circumstances are not in any great degree worse than those which surrounded the secession of the South, when the convention assembled which framed the constitution of 1787.

The legislative assemblies of the non-slaveholding States are, however, so entirely in the hands of short-sighted republican fanatics, that there neither has been, nor is there likely to be, any chance of their adopting a measure so directly calculated to rescue the Union.

The heat and burden of patriotic endeavor devolves, therefore, on the South, and it is believed that reflection upon the probable consequences of decided action on their part will inspire them with both the will and the desire to strike such a death blow to disunionism as shall secure their own interests and at the same time consolidate the nation upon foundations so secure to be again easily shaken.

Let separate State Conventions of each of the slaveholding States call, without delay, a Constituent Convention of the Southern States, to the exclusion of all others.

Let them adopt amendments to the constitution, such as the Central and Western States can honorably accept, which shall cover the reasonable grounds of difference between themselves and the North, insuring upon the recognition of the property rights of their citizens everywhere; upon other needful stipulations, which have heretofore been denied; upon full liberty to carry slaves into the common territory; and upon the recognition of universal toleration of opinion respecting slavery as a social institution in the several States of the Union.

Let them submit these different amendments to the different Northern States, earnestly inviting their acceptance of them, and assigning a period, similar to that which was appointed for the ratification of the constitution of 1787, when all States which should have agreed to their propositions should be considered as thenceforth forming the future United States of America.

The responsibility will fall upon the republicans of the Northern States if they shall refuse to consider such amendments, and the peril will be theirs if they elect to remain out of such a confederation as, beyond a cavil, the Central, Western and Southern States will be ready to form together.

New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey cling to the Union with inextinguishable love. They will not hesitate an instant to choose the happiness and prosperity which will flash upon the country out of such a measure, in preference to continued fellowship with the chaotic abolition tyranny and narrow-mindedness of the few States that may remain behind.

It is not improbable that the States east of the Connecticut river would reject the amendments to the constitution which a Southern Constituent Convention might propose.

The people of Massachusetts were very recently warned by one of her own statesmen and orators that "Yankees are not popular in the Middle any more than in the Southern States."

He told them that their "disunionism in the Middle States" was "universal, and assured them that there was 'a project much thought of, as well in the other non-slaveholding as in the slaveholding States, to re-constitute the Union, excluding New England from it.'"

Union men of New England are beginning to hold up this truth to each other, together with a daguerotype of the provincial meanness, bigotry, self conceit, love for "isms," hypocritical opposition to anything and everything, universal fault finding, hard bargaining, and systematic home lawlessness

## and nullification while denouncing as worthy of hanging, counter nullification in others, which are covering their section of the country with odium, and creating the wish elsewhere to relieve the confederation of the burden by its exclusion at any cost.

The prompt calling together of a Constituent Convention of the Southern States, and the adoption by it of sound, healthy amendments to the constitution, would either hasten a result which the rest of the country would welcome, or be the means of eradicating those political heresies and revolutionary tendencies in New England from which so much past evil has sprung.

There is no time to be lost. With proper diligence State conventions may be called together and delegates to a Southern Constituent Convention appointed, so that its sessions could open before the close of the present month.

During February the measures it may have adopted can be submitted to the remainder of the States, and before the period has arrived for the inauguration of a new President, the tempest that lowers so darkly over the horizon, and which seems fraught with destruction to the Union, may have been dispelled as a summer cloud.

## The National Fast Day—A Word as to Its Observance.

The people of the United States find themselves to-day in the midst of the most important crisis in the history of the nation.

The secession movement has assumed such formidable proportions that the Chief Magistrate of the republic has yielded to the appeals made to him by "pious and patriotic associations and citizens," and has recommended that this day shall be observed as a solemn fast.

We republic elsewhere the recommendation of the President and we have already given in the columns of the HERALD the proclamations of the Governors of New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, calling upon the citizens of those States to refrain from labor upon the day appointed, and to assemble according to their several orders of worship, to keep it as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer.

The Mayor of Newark has joined in these recommendations, and the Episcopal bishops of New York and New Jersey have ordained special services for the day.

As might have been expected, one of the Beechers has contributed his small share to the unenviable notoriety of his family by taking this recommendation as the text for a sermon against the President, and reviewing the question of slavery from a purely Massachusetts point of view.

In Boston, however, the day is to be religiously observed, and a special prayer meeting is to be held at the Tremont Temple.

The Mayor of Chicago, a violent abolitionist, refuses to accede to the request of his townsmen to issue a proclamation in response to the President's recommendation; and the Governor of Maine relieves himself from the responsibility of so doing by declaring that the recommendation of the President is sufficient of itself, without the endorsement of local magistrates.

The Governors of the other States, North and South, with the exceptions above noted, appear to have adopted Mr. Morrill's views; and it seems a little strange that the republican leaders, who are directly responsible for the present perilous condition of the country, are the first to endorse the President's recommendation.

In this city the day will be generally observed. Special services will be held in all the churches except those of the Roman Catholic persuasion, where prayers for the constitutional rights of the nation are put up every day; but Bishop McCloskey, of Albany, announced on Sunday that he would celebrate High Mass, at the Cathedral in that city, at nine o'clock this morning, and offer up prayers for the Union.

The banks, Custom House and public offices of this city will be closed, the daily session of the Legislature will be interrupted, and it is to be hoped that citizens generally will comply with the Governor's proclamation in its letter and spirit.

The only argument which the opponents of the President have urged against his recommendation has been that his course was a hypocritical one, and that he called upon the people to pray for deliverance from their perils without fulfilling the duties of his high position and executing the laws of the land according to his oath of office.

But the action of the administration within the past few days has proved that Mr. Buchanan is worthy to fill the chair of Washington and Jackson.

The President has given the people in all sections of the country to understand that there is still a federal government; that so long as it exists, each and every citizen is bound legally and morally to support it; that order must be maintained; that the constitution and the laws, until abrogated by competent tribunals, will be enforced; and the Union preserved at all hazards.

And the object of this fast is clearly that one day shall be set apart when our people, without distinction of sect or party, may approach the Throne of Grace and pray that the secular arm may be strengthened by the Divine blessing, and that God will be to us as He has been to our fathers.

Since the termination of the War of Independence we have enjoyed the blessings of Providence to an eminent degree.

In the early days of these States the settlers suffered from famine, pestilence and the inroads of savage foes.

They prayed to God and kept their powder dry. Humbling themselves to God alone, they still recognized the great truth that He helps those only who help themselves.

In times of sore distress they appointed special days for fasting and prayer; and again, when prosperity beamed upon them, they were prompt to raise the anthems of thanksgiving and praise.

At the present moment the republic is menaced by perils which are entirely political. In every other respect the United States of America is the most prosperous Power on the face of the globe.

With a government founded upon the eternal principles of equal rights to all men, rich and poor, high and low; a country unequalled in its material resources; a free, hardy, enterprising, self-reliant, resolute population; ample wealth; a small but gallant army and navy; a good name abroad, and a flag which commands respect in every part of the civilized world, we may safely defy treason, foreign levy or domestic malice.

And it is our misfortune that our present difficulties arise entirely from a misunderstanding between the people of the North and the South, and that this misunderstanding has been fostered by the politicians for their own selfish purposes to a degree of bitterness which may lead to an appeal to the arbitrament of arms.

Our latest despatches from Charleston

## Inform us that the secessionists intend to assault Fort Sumter, and that the United States troops within that post have solemnly sworn to defend it to the last extremity.

Whatever may be the immediate result of such an attack, there can be no doubt that the first shot fired in hostility to the federal authorities would be the signal for the beginning of the most disastrous civil war of modern times.

And we believe that we express the earnest wish of the people of New York city, and of the conservative masses of the North and West, when we declare that every effort should be made to prevent a collision between the United States troops and the local authorities of South Carolina and the other affected States.

The President's course has been, in accordance with this view of the matter, firm, but pacific.

He does not rely upon himself alone, nor yet upon the army and the navy. He asks the people of these States to join in an appeal to a Power far greater than the great ones of earth—He, before whose awful throne emperors, kings, presidents and potentates must bow.

Far greater perils than those which now menace this confederation have been averted by action of the Divine will inspiring and directing human agents.

Let us all pray that the Power which overrules all things, so as to bring permanent good out of passing evils, has not forgotten us in this our hour of distress.

## THE CABINET OF MR. LINCOLN.—SIGNS OF TROUBLE IN THE CAMP.

A few days ago we announced, as from a reliable source at Springfield, that Mr. Lincoln, the President elect, had definitely fixed upon some of his Cabinet appointments, including Hon. David Wilmot, of Pennsylvania, for the Department of the Interior; Moses H. Grinnell or George Opydke, of New York city, for the Treasury; and that while to New England, in all probability, would be awarded the Secretary of State, the claims of Mr. Seward to some post of distinction would be comfortably provided for in the mission to England.

At the same time we were informed of the arrival of Hon. Simon Cameron, of Pennsylvania; and from this circumstance we were prepared for a new shuffle and distribution of the cards.

This supposition, it appears, was well grounded. Gen. Cameron, it is reported, and apparently upon good authority, has returned from Springfield the Secretary elect of the Treasury, and his place, or Mr. Bigler's in the Senate, is to be given to David Wilmot, by way of a compromise.

But we have the more startling news from Springfield and from Washington, that after all Mr. Seward has turned up the man for the State Department.

That this intelligence, if true, will create a sensation in both wings of the New York republican camp is very certain.

We have already an inkling of a disturbance in the Washington despatch of the Tribune, announcing Mr. Seward's appointment.

In said despatch it appears that his "friends had habitually disclaimed any purpose or desire" on the part of Mr. Seward to go into the new Cabinet, but that "all the leading and original friends of Mr. Lincoln in the Senate and House allege that they have not been consulted in any manner concerning the composition of his Cabinet; but expected, before its completion was finally determined, to have been asked their views, according to the previously recognized usage."

Reasonable as they have been in this idea, however, "it now seems as if the new administration would be formed at Springfield;" or, in other words, as if Mr. Lincoln had resolved to give the ascendancy in his administration to the Seward or the anti-Seward faction of the New York republicans.

But will this thing be quietly submitted to? We cannot tell.

Horace Greeley is the man most interested in keeping W. H. Seward out of the Cabinet, for should he go in Greeley must capitulate, or be content to stay out in the cold.

He must make his peace with the firm of Seward, Weed &amp; Co., or he will probably get nothing at all.

As Secretary of State, the word of Seward will be the law to the President concerning his New York appointments, and Weed and Webb will administer the droppings of the fat things of the kitchen.

The best thing that Greeley can now do is to post off at once to Springfield and state his case to the President elect and his ultimatum.

Weed has been out there as the representative of the Seward branch of the family, and unless Mr. Lincoln is made to comprehend the other side of the case, judgment, with costs, will probably go by default against the manager of the Chicago Convention.

## THE MILITIA FORCE OF THE COUNTRY.

In the present perilous times it may be interesting to take a review of the amount of the militia force in the different States which the constitution puts at the command of the government in an emergency.

The following table, from the "Army Register" of 1859, gives an abstract of the number returned in various years, from a period as far back as 1827; but it is unnecessary to add that the militia organization, uniformed and ununiformed, has greatly increased in all the States since the dates prefixed to these returns.

MILITIA FORCE OF THE UNITED STATES. (Abstract of the United States Militia, from the Army Register.)

Non-Commissioned Officers, Artillery, Engineers, and Mounted Rifles.

Total Force of Militia, from the Army Register.

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